

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, YO

SUBJECT: IREX AND AYEC

REF: CATHERMAN MEMCONS JULY 17 AND 22

FOR CATHERMAN FROM RICHMOND

1. FOLLOWING (ON FYI BASIS) MAY BE HELPFUL IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH AYEC OF THE IMPASSE OVER YUGOSLAV FUNDING OF TRAVEL FOR IREX YUGOSLAV GRANTEES.

2. FORD FOUNDATION IS PLANNING TO REDUCE ITS FUNDING OF IREX BY DOLS 200,000 A YEAR BEGINNING FY 77. IN ITS SEARCH FOR ALTERNATE FUNDING, IREX HAS ASKED CU TO INCREASE ITS GRANT (LARGELY FOR SOVIET PROGRAMS) FROM DOLS 614,000 IN FY 75 TO DOLS ONE MILLION IN FY 76. WHILE WE ARE SYMPATHETIC TO IREX NEEDS AND HAVE HIGH REGARD FOR ITS PROGRAM, WE QUESTION NEED FOR PARALLEL IREX AND CU PROGRAMS IN EE COUNTRIES, BUT ESPECIALLY IN YUGOSLAVIA WHERE WE HAVE BINATIONAL COMMISSION. IREX HAS REJECTED OUR INFORMAL SUGGESTION THAT IT TERMINATE ITS PROGRAM IN YUGOSLAVIA BY

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MERGING IT INTO FULBRIGHT PROGRAM. HOWEVER, WE PLAN TO

PURSUE THIS WITH IREX AS WE DISCUSS LEVEL OF OUR FY 76 GRANT. CURRENT IMPASSE WITH FAISECTC AND AYES OVER IREX TRAVEL GRANTS PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR YUGOSLAVS TO CONSIDER WHETHER MERGER OF IREX AND CU PROGRAMS UNDER AYES PURVIEW IS ADVISABLE. YOU MAY WISH TO RAISE THIS INFORMALLY WITH AYES AND REQUEST THEIR VIEWS.

3. AS TO YOUR CURRENT PROBLEM, SUGGEST YOU HOLD FIRM. IF THE YUGOSLAVS CANNOT COME UP WITH THE REQUIRED TRAVEL FUNDS FOR THE IREX GRANTEES, SUGGEST WE LET THEM FIGURE A WAY OUT THEMSELVES. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SIX YUGOSLAV IREX STUDENTS ARE ALREADY IN US--FIVE OF WHOM PAID OWN TRANSPORTATION, AND SIXTH WAS FINANCED BY HIS INSTITUTE. TWO OTHERS HAVE DELAYED THEIR ARRIVAL PRESUMABLY WORKING OUT TRAVEL FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS.

4. YOU MAY WISH TO REITERATE TO YUGOSLAVS THAT FULBRIGHT-HAYS PROGRAM IS COMPETITIVE AND THAT CANDIDATES APPLIED IN GOOD FAITH FOR ANNOUNCED OPENINGS. IT WOULD BE UNFAIR TO DROP SOME OF THESE CANDIDATES IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE IREX GRANTEES. THE BFS WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE CONSULTED ON THIS. KISSINGER

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